

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ACTON AND BOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS**



**PROPOSED BUDGET  
Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Spring 2020

# ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee**

Tessa McKinley,  
Chair

Diane Baum  
Vice Chair

Adam Klein  
Vice Chair

Michael Bo

Ginny Kremer

Amy Krishnamurthy

Maya Minkin

Paul Murphy

John Petersen

Nora Shine

Angie Tso

### **Central Administration**

Peter Light,  
Superintendent

Marie Altieri,  
Deputy Superintendent

Dawn Bentley, Assistant  
Superintendent, Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion

Deborah Bookis, Assistant  
Superintendent, Teaching and  
Learning

Erin Bettez, Director,  
Community Education

Amy Bisiewicz, Director,  
Educational Technology

J.D. Head, Director, Operations

David Verdolino, Director,  
Finance

### **School Administration**

Larry Dorey, Principal, AB  
Regional High School

Andrew Shen, Principal, R.J.  
Grey Junior High School

Dana F. Labb, Principal,  
Blanchard School

Damian J. Sugrue, Principal,  
Conant School

Christopher Whitbeck,  
Principal, Douglas School

Lynne Newman, Principal,  
Gates School

David Krane, Principal,  
McCarthy-Towne School

Juliana Schneider, Principal,  
Merriam School

## Covid-19 Update June, 2020

Our schools recognize the enormous impact of Covid-19 and the economic downturn on members of our community, and it is similarly important for our community to understand that the pandemic and school closures have and will continue to impact every aspect of our school operations, teaching and learning, and budgeting. Recognizing the economic uncertainty that lies ahead, we worked with our School Committee throughout the spring to reduce our budget requests by just over \$1M in non-instructional areas including capital spending, administration, salaries, and a modest increase in the use of Circuit Breaker Reserves (Special Education).

Recognizing the uncertainty of planning for a transition to school in the fall, approximately ½ of the total reduction will be reserved for unanticipated costs related to Covid-19. We will continue to maximize grant opportunities for reimbursement of eligible expenses, and should the district not need all or part of the reserved amount, it will be returned to our reserves the following year. We believe this to be a prudent way to plan for the immediate uncertainty ahead, while also maintaining stability for possible economic uncertainty beyond FY21. Financial information throughout this memo reflects the original budget adopted by our school committee in February 2020.

**Reductions undertaken by the schools to reflect the impact of Covid-19 result in an overall operational budget increase of 2.73%. When debt repayment for the building project (detailed below) is included, the total increase in assessments are 7.10% (Acton) and 5.21% (Boxborough)**

We would like to thank our community for the tremendous support of our schools during this closure, and in particular, for the tremendous support you showed for our recent graduates.

## FY21 Budget

Developing a school budget takes significant time, energy and collaboration among many individuals and groups within our schools and community. The Budget evolved over multiple iterations during the first months of the school year. The discussion included feedback from our school committee, school and district administrators, local officials, and staff regarding the development of budget priorities, staffing requests, capital improvements, and key strategic allocations that will further the work of the district in realizing the goals of our new Strategy for Improvement.

## Debt Repayment

In addition to the typical operating budget increase proposed by the schools, the district needed to add the costs of repaying the first year's debt on the building project to the warrant for Town Meeting. On Tuesday March 3, the District completed the sale of our bonds to fund both the school building project and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Thanks to the strategic planning of our Debt Strategy Subcommittee and the efforts of our finance team and Treasurer Margaret Dennehy, the District was able to confirm its AAA bond rating from Standard and Poors and secure historically low interest rates on the bonds for these projects. The final interest rate on the 30 year bond for the building project is 2.198%. The final interest rate for the bond for the district's CIP is 1.026%. These historically low interest rates result in significant savings to the district and taxpayers.

Based on the final interest rate for the CIP bond, the district will save more than \$1.4 million in interest payments over the life of our loan compared to what was proposed to and approved by voters at Town Meeting in 2019. Based on the final interest rate of the building project bond, average tax increases will be \$385 in Acton and \$279 in Boxborough. This represents a savings of approximately \$35 - \$67 per year per household compared to what

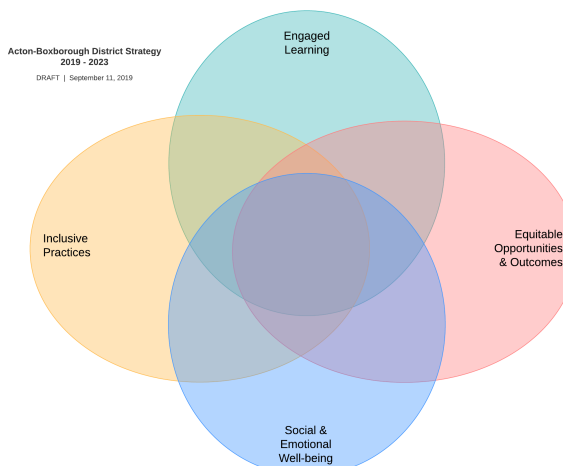
was approved by voters in December 2019, and a savings of 50% per household compared to what was approved by voters in 2017 when the feasibility study was approved at Town Meeting.

The debt payment (beyond the operating budget) is \$3,445,991 for the first year. When voters review the warrant for Town Meeting, it is important to know that the total increase in the FY21 budget reflects this appropriation to pay the debt for the new school. Including the debt repayment for the building project, the district's proposed budget for FY21 is \$96,912,701. This represents a *total* increase to the budget of 6.52%, and assessment increases of 7.10% (Acton) and 5.21% (Boxborough).

### Strategy in Transition

The District remains committed to our Core Values of Wellness, Equity and Engagement, as well as our Vision and Mission to provide high quality educational opportunities to inspire a community of learners and to develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships. This year marks a transitional period for the District's strategy to achieve these ends. The administrative team is working with our School Committee to consider feedback I solicited during my entry process as outlined in my [Report of Entry Findings](#). To that end, we are developing a new long-range strategy that will guide the District over the next 3-5 years. The new strategy focuses on four key overarching Strategic Objectives that intentionally support one another: *Engaged Learning*, *Inclusive Practices*, *Social and Emotional Wellbeing*, and *Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes*.

We will continue to develop our strategy over the course of this year. We recognize that as our students' needs evolve and we seek to improve outcomes for all students, we will need to reconsider established ways that we have allocated our resources. To this end, we have proposed a budget that strategically allocates resources aligned with our overarching Strategic Objectives.



We have placed particular emphasis on Strategic Objectives for improving students' *Social and Emotional Wellbeing*, and ensuring *Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes*, through budget priorities that drove reallocations of staff within special education, and through the decision to reduce tuition for All Day Kindergarten. Additionally, proposed changes in resource allocation within the general education program are designed to increase our focus on *Engaged Learning*. Because the overall strategy has been intentionally designed with overlapping Strategic Objectives, we believe that the proposed budget will support the District's capacity in all four of these priority areas.

### FY21 Budget Priorities

The main strategic priorities accomplished through this budget include:

- I. **Reallocation of existing resources in order to continue our Strategic Growth and adhere to the Budget Guidelines:**

While the District will reduce its overall staffing by 1.2 FTE, which includes 0.8 of FTE reductions included in the \$1M adjustment referred to in the first paragraph of this message, we are proposing to reallocate existing resources to new staffing with no overall budgetary impact. By reallocating existing staff and

resources in the general education environment, we were able to add an elementary STEAM coach, a math support teacher at the junior high school, a high school Dean of Academics and a Digital Learning Specialist to support a roll-out of a 1:1 Initiative in grade 9 next year.

Within Special Education, we will also reallocate existing staff and resources to create new positions. New staff positions within special education include teachers to expand the capacity of programs, counseling supports for students who require specialized programming and support for general education teachers who work with students that have complex social-emotional needs.

**II. A commitment to a multi-year, fiscally responsible transition to tuition-free all-day kindergarten:**

Beginning last year, the School Committee began to consider a move toward tuition-free All-Day Kindergarten (ADK) and voted to reduce ADK tuition by \$750 per year in FY21 with a commitment to implement tuition-free ADK at some point in the future. With the passage of the [Massachusetts Student Opportunity Act](#), and revenue that is projected to come to ABRSD in the future years of its implementation, the move to ADK would eventually become cost-neutral for the District.

**III. Implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that was developed and adopted during the FY20 Budget Process:**

The district is proposing to continue full implementation of the CIP during FY21, but proposes to slow the growth of capital funding in order to reduce the impact of the budget on taxpayers. Specifically, we propose to level-fund the capital allocation in the operating budget at \$1.2M. This amount, coupled with \$4.65M in bond proceeds (approved by voters in FY20) will allow the district to fully implement the Capital Improvement Plan for FY21. To see a full list of projects included in our CIP, please visit our Capital website.

[https://www.abschools.org/district/superintendent\\_s\\_office/capital\\_planning/interactive\\_capital\\_plan\\_info](https://www.abschools.org/district/superintendent_s_office/capital_planning/interactive_capital_plan_info)

**Summary**

A budget is more than a spending plan; it is a strategy toward achieving a set of goals which helps the District to achieve its vision. It is my hope that our budget presents a clear and compelling vision of how the District will leverage the valuable financial resources of the community to continue to improve our schools for the benefit of our students. More information about our [FY21 Budget](#) is available online.

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH Regional School District**  
**Calculation of Regional Member Assessments**

Revised (May 21)  
 Budget  
 FY2021

%'s represent: 3-year average of total K-12 student enrollment by Town  
 3-year K-12 average with 5% reduction to Boxborough\*\*

	ACTON		BOXBOROUGH
<<	84.34%	<<	15.66%
<<	89.34%	<<	10.66%

**EXPENDITURES INSIDE DEBT LIMIT (Prop. 2-1/2):**

OPERATING BUDGET (Recurring Non-Capital Expenditures)	\$90,708,592	\$76,501,549	\$14,207,043
^ includes Contingency (est. expenses for re-opening school fall, 2020) ^	\$500,000		
CAPITAL BUDGET, INCLUDING DEBT SERVICE -			
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Plan - Debt Service	900,000	\$759,039	\$140,961
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Plan - Current Year Projects	-	\$0	\$0
Lower Fields Construction Debt Service **	96,118	\$85,870	\$10,248
	<u>\$91,704,710</u>	\$77,346,458	\$14,358,252

**EXPENDITURES OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT (Prop. 2-1/2):**

RJ Grey Junior High Construction Debt Service **	375,720	\$335,660	\$40,060
Senior High Construction/Renovation Debt Service **	1,386,280	\$1,238,471	\$147,809
<b>Douglas/Gates Twin School Construction Debt Service</b>	<u>3,445,991</u>	<u>\$2,906,270</u>	<u>\$539,721</u>

**GROSS DISTRICT BUDGET (Revised ABRSD Appropriation)**

	96,912,701	\$81,826,859	\$15,085,842
	6.52%		
ADD - Allocated Debt Service Budgeted by Both Towns (see Credit below)	\$729,458	\$615,208	\$114,250
	<u>\$97,642,159</u> A	<u>\$82,442,067</u>	<u>\$15,200,092</u>
		84.43%	15.57%

**LESS - REVENUES AND RESERVE USE:**

CHAPTER 70 AID	\$15,345,811		
REGIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION AID	\$2,097,225		
CHARTER SCHOOL AID	\$50,000		
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$567,500		
TRANSFER FROM RESERVES - Excess & Deficiency (E&D)	<u>\$1,145,000</u>	\$965,667	\$179,333

**TOTAL REVENUES AND RESERVE USE**

	\$19,205,536 B	\$16,197,509	\$3,008,027
		84.34%	15.66%

**FUNDING FROM MEMBER TOWNS:**

GROSS REGIONAL APPROPRIATION less REVENUES (A minus B)	\$78,436,623	\$66,244,557	\$12,192,065
CREDIT - Debt Service Paid Directly by Both Towns	(\$729,458)	(\$635,508)	(\$93,950)
ADJUSTMENT - Cost Shift per Appendix A of Regional Agreement	\$0	(\$25,000)	\$25,000

**NET ASSESSMENT AMOUNT DUE FROM BOTH TOWNS**

	\$77,707,165	\$65,584,049	\$12,123,116
<b>TOTAL INCREASE FROM PRIOR YEAR ASSESSMENT - \$</b>	<b>\$4,949,626</b>	<b>\$4,349,111</b>	<b>\$600,515</b>
<b>TOTAL INCREASE FROM PRIOR YEAR ASSESSMENT - %</b>	<b>6.80%</b>	<b>7.10%</b>	<b>5.21%</b>

**ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN:**

CAPITAL BUDGET ASSESSMENT COMPONENT - \$	\$6,204,109	\$5,325,309	\$878,800
CAPITAL BUDGET COMPONENT INCREASE - %			
OPERATING BUDGET ASSESSMENT COMPONENT - \$	\$71,503,056	\$60,258,741	\$11,244,315
OPERATING BUDGET COMPONENT INCREASE - %	2.67%	2.99%	0.96%

**Acton-Boxborough Regional School District**  
**Comparative Budget Summary by Character Code**

	FY2018 Budget	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Budget	FY2019 Actual	FY2020 Budget	FY2021 Proposed	FY2021 Variance	% Chg.
Salaries, Teaching - 01	34,957,155	34,684,015	36,836,152	37,095,832	38,644,222	40,299,131	1,654,909	4.3%
Salaries, Principals - 02	2,393,559	2,410,510	2,447,883	2,450,914	2,509,716	2,564,667	54,951	2.2%
Salaries, Central Administration - 03	1,249,128	1,467,558	1,306,890	1,300,646	1,327,515	1,354,186	26,671	2.0%
Salaries, Support Staff - 04	9,716,262	9,638,298	11,911,339	11,379,419	12,353,716	12,723,045	369,329	3.0%
Salaries, Athletics - 05	583,202	558,340	627,874	608,746	691,197	695,099	3,902	0.6%
Salaries, Buildings - 06	808,007	755,248	818,672	804,320	950,523	963,741	13,218	1.4%
Salaries, Custodial - 07	1,531,398	1,465,529	1,559,721	1,464,521	1,576,310	1,574,089	(2,221)	-0.1%
Salaries, Home Instruction - 08	8,500	956	8,500	1,231	-	3,000	3,000	n/a
Salaries, Misc. Student Services - 09	1,574,847	1,496,979	432,428	269,599	313,000	234,000	(79,000)	-25.2%
Salaries, Subs Miscellaneous - 11	73,103	58,880	71,103	14,684	61,428	8,000	(53,428)	-87%
Salaries, Subs Instructional - 12	681,212	743,352	702,095	764,726	593,200	699,000	105,800	17.8%
Salaries, Overtime - 13	233,215	251,526	233,215	312,904	186,985	191,250	4,265	2.3%
Stipends, Curriculum/Instruction - 14	197,000	115,704	189,500	160,693	175,399	174,200	(1,199)	-0.7%
Fringe, Course Reimbursement - 15	56,000	57,827	56,000	69,624	56,000	105,000	49,000	87.5%
Fringe, Health Insurance - 16	8,385,796	8,253,656	8,072,389	7,568,255	7,432,894	7,910,233	477,339	6.4%
Fringe, Health Insurance, Retiree - 17	879,098	889,010	946,579	955,541	1,120,175	1,098,823	(21,352)	-1.9%
Fringe, Life/Disability Insurance - 18	42,100	40,375	44,520	42,775	45,856	45,856	-	0.0%
Fringe, Unemployment Insurance - 19	40,000	31,674	40,000	48,377	40,000	40,000	-	0.0%
Fringe, Workers Compensation - 20	600,000	493,550	515,574	440,589	420,978	443,290	22,312	5.3%
Fringe, Middlesex Cty. Retirement - 21	2,318,753	2,318,753	2,513,393	2,468,034	2,663,092	2,845,329	182,237	6.8%
Fringe, Medicare - 22	825,000	812,991	827,105	859,053	872,871	934,500	61,629	7.1%
Contributions, OPEB Trust Fund - 23	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	-	0.0%
Instruction Supplies - 24	1,049,095	1,258,899	1,156,237	1,357,509	1,265,641	1,247,750	(17,891)	-1.4%
Instruction Textbooks - 25	265,689	239,975	258,915	234,753	262,398	258,813	(3,585)	-1.4%
Instructional Services - 26	55,628	53,913	578,590	374,228	656,500	657,700	1,200	0.2%
Other, Capital Outlay - 27	1,038,450	1,033,987	134,292	542,315	160,000	1,073	(158,927)	-99%
Other, Capital - CIP - 28 (new in FY19)			1,000,000	822,248	1,203,100	2,000	(1,201,100)	-100%
Other, Debt Service - 29 (see Note)	1,903,718	1,903,718	1,872,518	1,872,518	1,911,218	6,387,442	4,476,224	234%
Other, Property/Casualty - 30	182,959	129,979	152,000	175,925	225,000	231,125	6,125	2.7%
Other, Maint Buildings/Grounds - 31	759,020	1,112,124	803,945	964,153	818,445	741,400	(77,045)	-9.4%
Other, Maintenance Equipment - 32	157,343	91,670	134,761	107,736	123,215	205,875	82,660	67.1%
Other, Legal Service - 34	161,350	148,124	175,000	71,872	140,000	115,000	(25,000)	-18%
Other, Admin Supplies - 35	1,033,692	990,929	867,182	872,664	878,345	743,382	(134,963)	-15%
Other, Athletic Supplies - 36	67,491	66,230	71,524	70,223	78,060	100,750	22,690	29.1%
Other, Custodial Supplies - 37	157,984	148,460	155,000	148,313	155,000	155,000	-	0.0%
Other, Spec Ed Transportation - 38	1,784,024	1,701,945	1,474,768	1,623,965	1,705,000	1,877,463	172,463	10.1%
Other, Student Transportation - 39	887,468	818,441	1,133,022	1,108,438	1,084,852	1,082,044	(2,808)	-0.3%
Other, Travel, Conferences - 40	133,303	150,587	236,600	187,890	215,906	153,399	(62,507)	-29%
Other, Spec Ed Tuition - 41	5,483,010	5,366,301	5,161,531	5,506,413	4,855,000	4,515,197	(339,803)	-7.0%
Other, Utilities - 42	1,758,200	1,368,243	1,304,000	1,319,489	1,304,000	1,310,000	6,000	0.5%
Other, Telephone - 43	85,751	52,923	85,751	52,173	81,055	82,599	1,544	1.9%
Other, Sewer - 44 (see Note)	304,823	273,281	286,333	280,350	286,333	103,000	(183,333)	-64%
Assessments - 48	766,658	606,062	628,479	575,434	637,466	634,750	(2,716)	-0.4%
Other, CONTINGENCY - 49	1,500	208	1,567	(811)	500	500,500	500,000	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>86,090,491</b>	<b>84,960,732</b>	<b>88,721,492</b>	<b>88,248,278</b>	<b>90,982,111</b>	<b>96,912,701</b>	<b>5,930,590</b>	<b>6.52%</b>

Note -  
Comparison of capital expenditure categories between FY2020 and FY2021:

CIP Program - appropriated for projects (CC28)	1,203,100	2,000	
CIP Program - first year of debt service on bond (CC29)	-	900,000	
CIP Program - other costs (CC27)	50,000	1,073	903,073

Detailed comparison of debt service (CC29 and other) between FY2020 and FY2021:

Existing debt service (JHS, SHS, Lower Fields)	1,911,218	1,858,118	
CIP Program - first year of debt service on bond	-	900,000	
Douglas/Gates construction - first year of debt service on bond	-	3,445,991	
Acton Sewer Betterment debt service (through FY2030)	(in CC44)	183,333	6,387,442

CONTINGENCY (included in CC49): Provision for estimated costs required for the re-opening of school in the fall; covering health/safety measures, building cleaning, distance learning services; detailed plans for re-opening are in progress at this writing.

# Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

## FY2021 Proposed Budget Development

	<u>Amount</u>
FY2020 Voted Budget (2.55% increase from FY2019)	\$ 90,982,111
FY2021 Level Service Budget (4.02% increase)	\$ 94,673,077
FY2021 Preliminary - SC Dec 5 (3.75% increase)	\$ 94,396,777
FY2021 Original Vote - SC Jan 9 (3.29% increase)	\$ 93,974,777
FY2021 Revised Vote - SC May 21 (2.73% increase)	\$ 93,466,710
ADD - First Year Payment on New School Bond	\$ 3,445,991
EQUALS - Total Proposed Budget (6.52% increase)	\$ 96,912,701

## Appropriated Budget History Since Full Regionalization

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Operating Budget</u>	<u>% Incr.</u>	<u>Capital Budget &amp; Debt Service</u>	<u>% Incr.</u>	<u>Total District Appropriation</u>	<u>% Incr.</u>
2015	\$ 74,737,040		\$ 2,363,474		\$ 77,100,514	
2016	\$ 78,026,952	4.4%	\$ 2,269,443	-4%	\$ 80,296,395	4.15%
2017	\$ 80,642,686	3.4%	\$ 2,430,518	7%	\$ 83,073,204	3.46%
2018	\$ 83,197,923	3.2%	\$ 2,892,568	19%	\$ 86,090,491	3.63%
2019	\$ 85,743,682	3.1%	\$ 2,977,810	3%	\$ 88,721,492	3.06%
2020	\$ 87,707,793	2.3%	\$ 3,274,318	10%	\$ 90,982,111	2.55%
2021	\$ 90,708,592	3.4%	\$ 2,758,118	-16%	\$ 93,466,710	2.73%
ADD - First Year Bond Payment			\$ 3,445,991		\$ 3,445,991	
2021	\$ 90,708,592	3.4%	\$ 6,204,109		\$ 96,912,701	6.52%



# Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

## Analysis of E&D since Full Regionalization

(\$ amounts in 000s)

(max = 5%)

Budget FY	Regional Budget	Appropriated from E&D	Transferred from E&D	E&D Balance	E&D as a %
2015	\$77,100.5	\$ 300		\$ 1,072.5	1.4%
2016	\$80,296.4	\$ 200		\$ 1,950.4	2.4%
2017	\$83,073.2	\$ 200		\$ 2,738.7	3.3%
2018	\$86,090.5	\$ 450	\$ 710 (A)	\$ 4,008.3	4.7%
2019	\$88,721.5	\$ 775	\$1,000 (B)	\$ 4,082.3	4.6%
2020	\$90,982.1	\$ 690		\$ 3,626.6	4.0%
2021 Proposed	\$96,912.7	\$ 1,145		TBD - July 1, 2020	

(A) - To Douglas School project (to fund feasibility study)

(B) - To fund newly-created Capital Stabilization Fund

## Recommended Assessment %-Change from P/Y (Then and Now)

	SC Voted	Revised
Budget without 1 <sup>st</sup> year new school debt service -		
TOTAL Assessment	2.97%	2.07%
Assessment - ACTON	3.26%	2.36%
Assessment - BOXBOROUGH	1.42%	0.53%
Budget WITH 1 <sup>st</sup> year new school debt service -		
TOTAL Assessment	7.50%	6.80%
Assessment - ACTON	7.80%	7.10%
Assessment - BOXBOROUGH	5.90%	5.21%

**Comparative Data 2018-2019**  
**Sorted by Per Pupil Expenditure Highest to Lowest**  
As reported by the Massachusetts Department of Education  
Rankings are out of 326 School Districts

State Ranking Per Pupil Costs	District	DESE Adjusted Enrollment 2018-2019	Per Pupil Costs 2018- 2019	Student- Teacher Ratio 2018- 2019	SAT Combined 2018-2019
#16	Weston	2,103	<b>\$25,846</b>	12.0	1279
#23	Concord-Carlisle	1274	<b>\$23,203</b>	12.5	1271
#32	Lincoln-Sudbury	1528	<b>\$22,772</b>	12.1	1244
#51	Wellesley	4963	<b>\$21,016</b>	12.6	1253
#53	Concord	2099	<b>\$20,941</b>	12.6	
#55	Harvard	1065	<b>\$20,910</b>	12.4	1215
#57	Dedham	2687	<b>\$20,820</b>	11.7	1123
#93	Needham	5721	<b>\$18,827</b>	14.0	1226
#101	Wilmington	3197	<b>\$18,673</b>	11.6	1101
#131	Marblehead	3051	<b>\$17,453</b>	11.8	1193
#134	Nashoba	3228	<b>\$17,362</b>	12.2	1190
	State Average		<b>\$17,131</b>	12.9	
#151	Sudbury	2653	<b>\$17,107</b>	13.2	
<b>#182</b>	<b>Acton-Boxborough</b>	<b>5571</b>	<b>\$16,428</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>1325</b>
#217	Milton	4265	<b>\$15,785</b>	13.9	1169
#240	Westford	5069	<b>\$15,131</b>	13.9	1232
#252	Hingham	4242	<b>\$14,906</b>	14.4	1203
#256	Reading	4210	<b>\$14,836</b>	13.2	1160
#257	Belmont	4628	<b>\$14,820</b>	16.6	1236
#260	Winchester	4639	<b>\$14,710</b>	13.1	1253
#299	Wachusett	7103	<b>\$13,755</b>	15.4	1137
Average of comparative districts			<b>\$18,265</b>	11.9	1212

**NOTES:** Acton-Boxborough spends \$700 less than the state average per pupil, and \$1,821 less than the average of (20) comparable communities.Massachusetts.

Among 20 comparable communities, AB is 13th in per pupil spending, 1st in combined SAT scores, and has the third highest number of students for each certified teacher.



## Resource Allocation and District Action Reports (RADAR) Benchmarking

Select a district (use drop-down list or type district name accurately) and then select up to ten additional districts in the blue cells. Users must select comparison districts in the blue cells to generate reports.

Below the selection table, RADAR generates two automatic lists of similar districts based on algorithms using 1) demographic data, and 2) municipalities' personal income and property value levels. These lists may suggest districts to consider for benchmarking.

Select a district:

**Acton-Boxborough**

### SELECT COMPARISON DISTRICTS

Select up to ten comparison districts in the blue cells (use drop-down or type district name)  
Delete and re-select comparison names if you select a new target district above

Select up to ten comparison districts in the blue cells (use drop-down or type district name)  Delete and re-select comparison names if you select a new target district above	2019 Students				2019 NextGen MCAS											
	Region	2018 \$/In-district Pupil	2019 Relative District Wealth*					Grades 3-8						Grade 10		
				Total Enrolled	Econ Disadv	SWD	EL	% Meet or Exceed Expectations			Avg Student Growth Percentile (SGP)			% Meet or Exceed Expectations	Avg Student Growth Percentile (SGP)	
				#	%	%	%	ELA	Math	Science	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
Acton-Boxborough	Gr Boston	\$14,382	80%	5,571	6.2	16.0	4.1	74%	72%	72%	52.5	57.9	89%	92%	59.3	57.3
Bedford	Gr Boston	\$17,595	91%	2,658	8.7	16.6	6.6	73%	72%	67%	53.1	54.3	69%	75%	48.1	59.6
Belmont	Gr Boston	\$12,736	121%	4,628	7.1	10.6	7.8	80%	80%	84%	58.0	58.6	90%	91%	54.7	56.1
Harvard	Central	\$16,766	110%	1,065	4.7	11.2	1.4	76%	72%	82%	56.1	49.0	94%	90%	67.6	75.1
Marblehead	Northeast	\$15,778	145%	3,051	9.4	19.3	4.0	65%	63%	61%	48.1	57.1	79%	78%	54.2	58.4
Nashoba	Central	\$16,160	84%	3,228	7.8	16.2	2.1	75%	71%	70%	56.4	53.1	81%	80%	55.8	44.9
Needham	Gr Boston	\$17,213	148%	5,721	5.3	17.2	2.9	76%	73%	70%	59.2	56.9	84%	88%	50.2	55.7
Wachusett	Central	\$12,280	60%	7,103	10.3	15.1	1.7	67%	64%	67%	50.4	50.1	81%	78%	53.1	57.2
Westborough	Central	\$14,927	80%	3,925	8.2	14.9	11.5	77%	76%	71%	60.6	62.3	84%	83%	57.1	51.5
Westford	Northeast	\$14,004	76%	5,069	5.2	14.7	1.7	75%	78%	78%	52.8	56.3	82%	85%	61.5	61.2
Winchester	Gr Boston	\$13,451	127%	4,639	5.0	17.3	2.5	81%	79%	78%	54.6	50.0	85%	86%	48.3	56.4

\*This is an indicator of community wealth (personal income and property value) calculated for the Chapter 70 aid program. A district at 100% has the capacity to fully fund its foundation budget. Districts at less than 100% are less wealthy, with less personal income and property value, and districts at more than 100% are more wealthy.

# Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

## Students, Staff, Class Size

*FY15 - FY21*

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>						Projected
	<u>14-15</u>	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>	<u>18-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>20-21</u>
Preschool	123	127	116	111	105	102	101
K	320	299	330	352	330	306	305
1	347	357	324	343	371	346	316
2	367	372	372	365	355	381	363
3	395	393	397	388	393	377	404
4	440	405	412	415	400	392	382
5	440	443	414	420	429	412	397
6	436	453	466	420	428	421	408
Other K-6	<u>28</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	2896	2874	2853	2834	2830	2749	2684
"School Choice"/tuition students included >	51	50	60	48	40	34	31
7	428	445	458	486	435	412	422
8	479	443	455	478	488	448	412
Other 7-8	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
Totals	924	898	929	983	941	877	851
"School Choice"/tuition students included >	12	11	8	12	18	21	22
9	457	489	440	427	460	470	420
10	479	457	493	447	429	463	464
11	486	483	461	501	445	427	461
12	483	480	476	452	500	449	424
SP13					3	5	5
Other 9-12	<u>50</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>45</u>
Totals	1955	1965	1928	1880	1883	1856	1819
"School Choice"/tuition students included >	32	32	31	29	23	22	27
	5775	5737	5710	5697	5654	5482	5354

**Acton-Boxborough Regional School District**  
**Students, Staff, Class Size (Continued)**

**Number of Certified Staff**

							Projected
<u>Grade</u>	<u>14-15</u>	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>	<u>18-19</u>	<u>19-20</u>	<u>20-21</u>
PreK-6	216.46	216.82	223.93	229.51	240.12	249.58	254.78
JH	73.80	74.80	77.00	78.85	79.91	82.19	83.39
HS	152.75	153.75	156.20	157.40	157.40	158.28	163.38
System Wide	<u>8.00</u>	<u>8.00</u>	<u>8.00</u>	<u>8.32</u>	<u>8.32</u>	<u>7.51</u>	<u>7.22</u>
Totals	451.01	453.37	465.13	474.08	485.75	497.56	508.77
<i>Funded by "school choice" included</i>	<i>4.8 FTE</i>	<i>5 FTE</i>	<i>4 FTE</i>	<i>3 FTE</i>	<i>2.5 FTE</i>	<i>2.5 FTE</i>	<i>2.5 FTE</i>

**Number of Non-Certified Staff**

							Projected
<u>Grade</u>	<u>14-15</u>	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>	<u>18-19</u>	<u>19-20</u>	<u>20-21</u>
PreK-6	139.92	145.71	144.80	147.30	159.54*	161.47	159.15***
JH	22.26	21.46	21.96	24.55	27.17	30.94	29.07
HS	42.30	42.40	42.50	38.87	43.47	45.05	43.97
System Wide	<u>79.05</u>	<u>78.86</u>	<u>79.86</u>	<u>79.86</u>	<u>92.20**</u>	<u>95.33</u>	<u>95.67</u>
	283.53	288.43	289.12	290.58	322.38	332.79	327.86

\*One time increase of 18.23 FTE Assistants transferred from revolving accounts

\*\*One time increase of 13.37 Bus Drivers as a result of new school schedules

\*\*\*6.6 FTE were moved from ADK tuition to budget

**Class Size Information\***

<b>Class Size Average</b>	<u>14-15</u>	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>	<u>18-19</u>	<u>19-20</u>
Elementary	22.50	22.50	22.44	22.16	21.80	21.40
JH	21.96	20.97	21.73	23.02	22.32	20.5
HS	21.30	21.23	21.00	20.96	20.73	20.31

**Class Size Range**

Elementary	18 to 25	17 to 25	14 to 25	18 to 26	16 to 25	16 to 25
JH	13 to 31	13 to 31	10 to 28	13 to 30	15 to 28	13 to 26
HS	2 to 61	2 to 47	3 to 45	2 to 43	2 to 38	4 to 32

**Number of Classes Below 20/Above 25**

Elementary	7/0	14/0	14/0	12/0	14/0	20/0
JH	36/18	46/9	35/7	14/30	35/23	66/1
HS	146/71	144/83	159/69	160/79	159/55	187/48

\* Class size information for 20-21 can only be determined once students are assigned

# Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

## FY2021 Capital Projects Funding Overview

### Douglas/Gates Twin School

Total Approved Project Budget	\$ 117,328,519
Less - Feasibility (approved December, 2017)	\$ (1,300,000)
Construction Phase Budget	\$ 116,028,519
District's Estimated Share of Costs (after reimbursement from MSBA)	\$ 78,655,700
Bond Amount (sale closed March, 2020)	\$ 75,000,000
Bond Effective Rate (lowest of 8 bids)	2.199%

<b>FY21 Debt Service (added to appropriated budget)* \$ 3,445,991</b>
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\* - this is \$179,000 less than previously estimated due to low interest rate

### Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Total CIP Project Costs (13-year plan)**	\$ 22,975,000
Appropriated to Date -	
FY2020 budget	\$ 1,250,000
FY2020 T/M	\$ 7,500,000
<b>FY2021 budget</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>

Bond Amount (sale closed March, 2020)	\$ 7,500,000
Bond Effective Rate (lowest of 8 bids)	1.027%

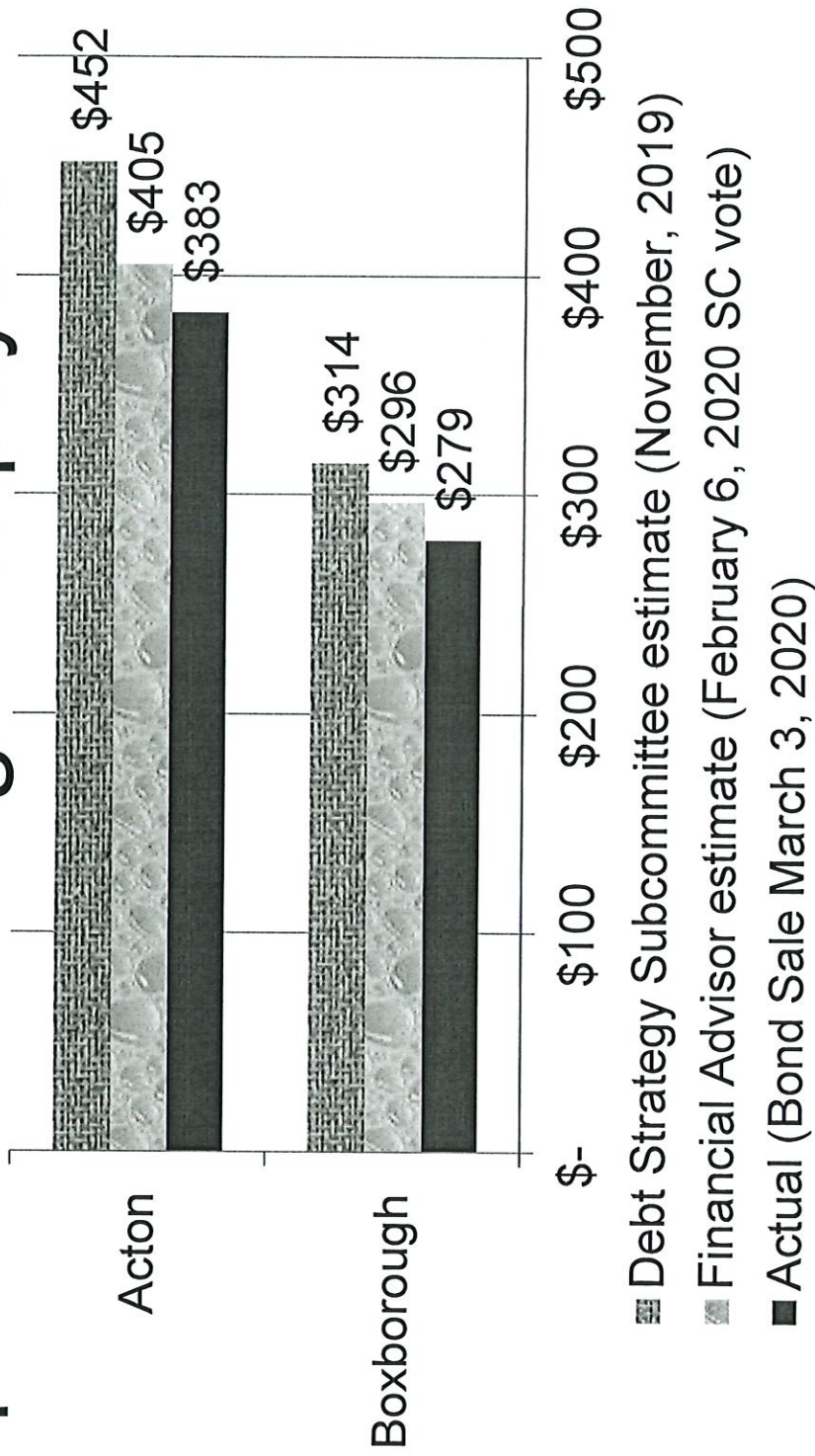
<b>FY21 Debt Service (added to appropriated budget) \$ 900,000</b>
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\* - this is \$400,000 greater than previously estimated due to low interest rate

For more information, including periodic updates on the status of capital projects, visit the Interactive CIP page on the District's website.



# Douglas/Gates Bond Financing - Impact to Average Taxpayers



Average SF Home Assessed Value:

Acton \$590K

Boxborough \$610K

## School Highlights

(as of March 15, 2020)

### **Blanchard** *Dana Labb, Principal*

- Blanchard's theme for the year is #commUNITY. We continue to meet monthly for community meetings and cross-grade STARR buddies. Themes so far this year have included: Getting to Know You, Outdoor Learning, Gratitude, STEM, Traditions, Black History, Women's History, and Literacy.
- Staff has engaged in yearlong book groups focused on social emotional learning, mathematics instructional practices, literacy instructional practices, outdoor learning, and co-teaching. Many staff members, including all classroom assistants, have also been trained in Restorative Practices and participated in anti-bias activities.
- Curriculum teams for math, literacy, and social emotional learning meet regularly to reflect on current efforts and align our instructional practices. Grade level teams meet monthly to analyze evidence of student learning and plan for next steps within the framework of MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support).
- Students have had increased opportunities to lead their learning through academic choice, goal setting, and reflection.
- The PTF continues to support enrichment programming and have funded grants for: diverse books in classroom libraries, yoga, mindfulness, naturalist educators, STEM workshops, an archeological residency, social studies experiences, and making Slow Tech Week events free for all families.

### **Conant** *Damian Sugrue, Principal*

- Community service projects included valentines for the elderly, a food drive for Acton Food Pantry, a toy drive for Toys for Tots, and "Pennies for Pediatrics," which benefits Emerson Hospital.
- Conant PTO hosts children's authors for student workshops annually.
- The PTO brought in several enrichment activities and helped many family events for the entire school.
- Conant hosted an evening art show for all grades to showcase their work.
- The new tradition of "Conant Celebrates" (an evening to celebrate different cultures) was started.
- Sixth graders attended Sargent Camp, an outdoor adventure/learning experience.
- Nature Walks continued for all grades.
- The Annual Craft Fair is always a great success.

### **Douglas** *Chris Whitbeck, Principal*

The Douglas School uses "Exhibitionary Learning" to showcase student skills and concept mastery. This year:

- Kindergartners explored acts of Kindness.
- 1st graders studied Identity.
- 2nd graders presented The Importance of Trees as well as Immigration.
- 3rd graders explored Building a Community.
- 4th graders explored Identity and Being the change you wish to see in the world.
- 5th graders presented on What makes me tick, What should school look like, and 5th graders part of the school picture.
- 6th graders investigated communication and what school has meant to them as well as performed *Magic Tree House - Pirates at Noon*.

### **Gates** *Lynne Newman, Principal*

- Gates is honored to be a 2019 Massachusetts School of Recognition for outstanding high achievement, high growth, and exceptional performance relative to our improvement targets.
- Student Council organized and collected donations on behalf of the Acton Food Pantry Drive.
- Gates Green Team is researching renewable energy sources and is developing a Gates Green Team website.
- School Improvement Plan goals focus on developing a Growth Mindset, exploring the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) to best meet the needs of our diverse learners, and adopting the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Systems (BAS) to inform reading instruction.
- Annual Kindergarten Medieval Feast celebrates with the High School Madrigal Performers.
- PTO-sponsored events: Gates Fun Run, Book Fair, Gates Giving Tree, Cultural Showcase, Ice Cream Social, Activity Day
- Celebrate the Arts Night with over 2,000 pieces of student artwork on display with an instrument museum and chorus performances.



### **McCarthy-Towne** *David Krane, Principal*

- Workshop model utilized throughout the grades
- Art Integration, Grades K-6
- Fifth Grade overnight to Merrowvista – Leadership and Teamwork
- Sixth Grade day trip to Thompson Island – Leadership and Teamwork
- Sixth Grade rotates for subject area instruction
- Responsive Classroom school
- Musical Performances include two annual Chorus concerts and two annual Band concerts
- Community Service projects include Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, Spoons Project for Project Bread, Acton Food Pantry food drive, Stink Week for Decibels Foundation
- Parent Involvement Coordinator as part of the PTSO (Parent Teacher Student Organization)

### **Merriam** *Juliana Schneider, Principal*

- Students in grades K-6 completed mid-year student-led conferences with members of every Merriam family.
- Annual Literacy Week Celebration included high school readers sharing books in multiple languages.
- The School Council sponsored our second Family Theme Night featuring interactive activities around our theme “nature,” which had kids poetry jamming, painting and building.
- The PTO has taken on the work of rewriting our PTO bylaws and surveying families with the goal of increasing parent involvement in our school.
- Literacy coach Sue Bober continues to support teachers with their workshop model in classrooms.
- Teacher-led Curriculum Committee leads all school based Professional Learning in mapping and project development and this year we’ve done work around revising projects to incorporate more STEAM elements.
- Weekly All School Meetings are planned and led by sixth grade hosts every Friday morning.

### **R. J. Grey Junior High** *Andrew Shen, Principal*

- The Junior High partnered with Edtech to transition RJ Grey into a 1:1 Chromebook environment, where all students are assigned a Chromebook to use throughout the school day
- The 8th Grade English curriculum now includes a new unit - *Common Ground*, that expands our school’s emphasis on including additional texts that reflect the diverse experiences of our students and community, including gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity.
- Professional learning for staff at RJ Grey included a yearlong partnership with Jessica Minahan on expanding our instructional strategies to support students who exhibit challenging behaviors
- The Junior High has continued a Chromebook and hotspot loaner program for students who may not have access to a computer and/or WiFi at home; this year over 30 students and families have participated in this loaner program
- Our theatre program included a fall presentation of the musical *James and the Giant Peach*
- The RJ Grey gym underwent a complete renovation including the floors, bleachers, and installing a mobile divider, benefiting students and the greater community

### **Acton Boxborough Regional High School** *Larry Dorey, Principal*

- This year’s School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals focused on student wellness; student engagement in the classroom; and diversity, equity and inclusion.
- The high school piloted a full year, seven drop-one, rotating schedule that featured six 55 minute periods with one period dropped daily. In addition to the schedule, mid-year and final exam weeks were replaced by a more flexible, less high stake assessment model. Both these initiatives fell under our SIP goals of student wellness and engagement.
- Thirty students took part in the inaugural year of the ADL sponsored “A World of Difference” program. These students were trained by the ADL to peer lead anti-bias curriculum in the classroom. In the spring a second group of 20 volunteers will be selected for training.
- A student-led walk-out was held in the front circle of the high school in February. The focus of the walk-out was racial justice. Three students spoke of their own experiences in the schools and the communities of Acton and Boxborough.
- Signs of Suicide Prevention Program (S.O.S.) was again conducted by our counseling team in conjunction with Riverside and Advocates support services.



## Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

### Our Vision

*To provide high-quality educational opportunities that inspire a community of learners.*

### Our Values

- Wellness: We partner with families to prioritize social emotional wellness, which is necessary for learning and developing resilience.
- Equity: We ensure all students have equitable access to programs and curricula to reach their potential
- Engagement: We provide engaging educational opportunities where students develop passion and joy for learning

### Our Mission

*To develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions, age, active military/veteran status, ancestry, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, employment policies, and other administered programs and activities. In addition, students who are homeless or of limited English-speaking ability are protected from discrimination in accessing the course of study and other opportunities available through the schools.

Any person having inquiries or complaints concerning the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or MGL ch. 76, sec.5 is directed to contact the Assistant Superintendent for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Administration Building, 15 Charter Road, Acton, MA, telephone number 978-264-4700, x3265, who has been designated by the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with these laws, or write to the Office for Civil Rights, J. F. Kennedy Federal Building, Room 1875, Boston, MA 02203, or the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Program Quality Assurance Services, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148.